

# AccessLetter

*Cambridge Commission for  
Persons with Disabilities*

## **New ADA Standards for Accessible Design Go Into Effect**



**New ADA Accessibility  
Standards went into  
effect March 15, 2012**

With the twentieth anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 2010 came several updates to this landmark civil rights legislation.

Among the changes was the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, affecting both the public sector (ADA Title II: State

and Local Governments) and the private sector (ADA Title III: Commercial Facilities and Places of Public Accommodation). These new standards took effect on March 15, 2012 and replace the standards from that originally were issued in 1991.

For the private sector, this means that any new construction for which a building permit is issued on or after March 15, 2012 must meet the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

For the public sector, including state governments like the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and municipalities like the City of Cambridge, any construction or alterations that begin on or after March 15 must meet these new standards.

The new standards can be found online at [www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards\\_index.htm](http://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm). Alternately, a free copy of the standards may be ordered from the Department of Justice by calling 1-800-514-0301.

Individuals may contact the New England ADA Center with any questions at [adainfo@NewEnglandADA.org](mailto:adainfo@NewEnglandADA.org), or 800-949-4232.

## **CCPD Opposes MBTA Fare Hikes and Service Cuts**



***Opinion by CCPD***

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities recently wrote to the MBTA to express its deep concern over the two scenarios proposed by the agency to address

its projected budget deficit. The fare increases and service reductions at the core of both scenarios would have a devastating impact on people with disabilities throughout the state who rely on public transit for their personal independence, health, safety, and livelihood.

The fare increases proposed under both Scenario I and Scenario II are disproportionately burdensome on people with disabilities compared with the rest of the MBTA ridership. Scenario I proposes a fare increase of 43% over all ridership, but a 125% to 500% increase in fares for people with disabilities. Scenario II proposes a 35% fare increase overall, but a 50% to 100% increase in fares for people with disabilities. Clearly, both proposals will have a dramatically disparate effect on individuals with disabilities. It is unreasonable, unjust, and economically unsound for the Authority to impose the greatest financial hardship on the population who are most likely to be on fixed budgets and thus can least afford it.

In the U.S., people with disabilities are 2 to 3 times more likely to be living in poverty than nondisabled people, and over 3 times more likely to be unemployed. These numbers will only worsen without access to affordable public transportation, which is crucial to those who rely on it for getting and keeping a job.

**(More on MBTA Cuts, page 2)**

## MBTA Cuts (cont. from page 1)

Seniors with disabilities face a double burden: although they are recognized as a “vulnerable” population by both criteria, there are very few alternate options for accessible, affordable means of transportation. Furthermore, the proposed service reductions and eliminations would create significant barriers for individuals with disabilities in several areas: employment, housing, education, health care, and cultural events. For example:

- Route 52 provides the only public transit access to The Carroll Center for the Blind, which specializes in training blind and visually impaired people to live and work independently.
- Route 62 from Alewife Station is relied upon by hundreds of veterans for travel to and from the Bedford V.A. Medical Center, a major provider of health care and rehabilitation services.
- Green Line “E” Branch service provides access to the Jamaica Plain V.A. Medical Center and the Longwood Medical Area, as well as major cultural and shopping destinations at Symphony, MFA, and Prudential stations.

By cutting off people with disabilities from the services and care upon which they rely, these and other widespread service cuts would dramatically and negatively impact their health and safety, and most likely increase the burden of the state welfare and health care systems.

Finally, we are extremely concerned about proposed changes to the fare structure of The RIDE paratransit service. The RIDE is and will remain an absolutely vital alternative for people with disabilities whose limitations prevent them from using fixed-route transit. This is true for individuals who experience challenges across a broad range of cross disability functional

limitations: it will affect not only people with physical mobility issues, but also those with limitations in orientation, stamina, and communication. For all concerned, access to the RIDE is essential. The proposed changes to this system will be devastating.

- The current proposed fare increases, particularly the 500% increase for Premium Service under Scenario I, is simply unaffordable for exactly the population that the RIDE exists to serve. It literally will leave people stranded, which is ethically indefensible.
- The proposed cuts to fixed-route service could force people with disabilities to use the RIDE and go into Premium Fare areas, exacerbating the already disproportionate financial burden and, in many cases, putting transport entirely out of financial reach.



- The proposed cuts and fare increases undermine the goal of a more efficient and viable RIDE.

CCPD recognizes and appreciates the steps that have been taken in recent years to remove barriers to access along certain fixed routes, so that the MBTA is accessible to all. It remains imperative, however, that the Authority and our state legislature work together to balance the budget and address the budget overruns caused by debt from other projects. It is in the vital interest of the Commonwealth to make a serious, long-term investment in the continued accessibility of its fixed-route service.

We encourage the MBTA to expand its commitment to physical access as well as to customer outreach and education. Now that improvements to its infrastructure have been made, including installation of new elevators at select stations and an increased number of lifts on buses, the MBTA might consider sponsoring or implementing a travel training program that

would encourage customers with disabilities to utilize the fixed-route system. By taking a longer view toward the full accessibility of its infrastructure, the MBTA will continue the positive trend of increased ridership and ultimately reach its larger cost-containment goals.



Access to affordable, barrier-free public transportation is the cornerstone of livability for people with disabilities in Cambridge, Boston, and throughout the state. While we recognize that the MBTA is confronting a significant and immediate financial challenge, passing the majority of the financial burden onto the people least able to afford it will fail to address the problem and runs counter to the values and highest principles of the Commonwealth.

## Accessible Housing Opportunity



Attention, first-time homebuyers! Cambridge nonprofit housing developer Just-A-Start is seeking applicants for a one-bedroom wheelchair-accessible homeownership unit.

This unit is part of a larger affordable homeownership project that Just-A-Start is constructing on Windsor Street in the Wellington-Harrington neighborhood. A total of fourteen (14) units will be for sale to low and moderate income first-time homebuyer households and will be ready for occupancy in September 2012.

For more information about the application/lottery process, or to submit an application, contact Sharon Cowan, Project Manager at Just-A-Start, at SharonCowan@justastart.org, 617-494-0444 ext. 340, or visit <www.justastart.org>.

## Fighting for Home and Community-Based Care

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) reported recently that an estimated 10 million Americans currently need long-term services including personal care and other supportive services – and this number is projected to increase to 26 million by 2050. For Americans with disabilities, long-term care is a critical tool for independent living but most could not secure coverage without outside support.



The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act included a program known as the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act (the "CLASS Act") that would enable

people to buy affordable long-term care insurance. CLASS would provide millions of people with a crucial service that was previously beyond their reach—home and community based care that enables people live and work in their communities and *costs far less* than institutional care.

Now, before it has even been implemented, this vital program is in danger.

HR 1173 -- a bill that would repeal the CLASS Act -- is expected to reach the floor of the House of Representatives soon. AAPD urges its supporters to stop this bill -- saying, "Instead of killing a program that millions of Americans need, our leaders must get back to work and find a way to make the CLASS Act work."

AAPD urges Congress to not repeal the CLASS Act and urges the President to veto any legislation that attempts to repeal it. For more information, visit <www.aapd.com>.

## Upcoming Events of Interest to the Disability Community

(See end of Calendar for all weekly/recurring events)

- April 4      **FREE Easter Seals Demonstration on Accessible Switches** -- Offered by the Easter Seals Assistive Technology Resource Center (ARTC), this demonstration will give attendees an opportunity to test out different types of switches, such as fiber optic, grasp, microlite, twitch, sound, air, and motion switches. Switch toys, games and other switch modifiers and interfaces will be included in the demonstration. This demo will be held from 11am-12pm at the Easter Seals Technology Center, 89 South Street, Boston (one block from MBTA South Station). RSVP is requested at 617-226-2634 or <artc@eastersealsma.org>.
- April 7      **FREE MoS Community Day with ASL Interpretation: *Geckos: From Tails to Toepads*** – The Museum of Science (MoS) is offering free Exhibit Hall admission for pre-registered guests until closing, but tickets must be picked up between 10am and 12pm. ASL interpreters will be available during the day's events. Go to <www.tiny.cc/mosgecko> to register your party for FREE tickets. Contact the MoS at 617-723-2500 if you need more information.
- April 10      **Personal Budget Management, a FREE Workshop for Cambridge Residents** – Offered by the Cambridge Community Development Department, this workshop will teach you new ways to save, how to create a budget, realize your financial goals, and make your money work for you. This is a two-part class, meeting on April 10 and April 12 from 6pm-8pm and is free for Cambridge residents and \$5 per class for others. Classes will be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway. Pre-registration is required: contact Rona Holmes at <rholmes@cambridgema.gov> or 617-349-4637.
- April 12      **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) Monthly Meeting** – Meets in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room at 51 Inman Street, Cambridge from 5:30pm, with opportunity for public comment. Call 617-349-4692 (voice) or 617-492-0235 (TTY) or e-mail <kthurman@cambridgema.gov> for more information or to request accommodations.
- Apr. 20-29      **Cambridge Science Festival** – Showcasing Cambridge as an internationally recognized leader in science, technology, engineering and math, this multifaceted, multicultural festival features exhibitions, plays, concerts, poetry readings, lectures, demonstrations, and debates, making science accessible, interactive and fun! Festival events are being held in a variety of locations throughout the 10 days, and many events are free. Visit <www.cambridgesciencefestival.org> for more information, including the schedule of events.
- April 21      **Free Dental Care Appointments for Persons with Disabilities** – Senior dental students from Harvard University, supported by an expert faculty, will provide dental care with no out-of-pocket expense to individuals with special needs in a pilot project at Windsor Street Health Center (119 Windsor Street, Cambridge) from 9am-1pm. In addition, administrative staff will help eligible patients sign up for MassHealth and free emergency care will be provided to those who need it. Pre-registration is required and appointments are expected to fill up quickly. Register by calling 617-432-2373 and leaving a message with your name and phone number.
- April 26      **Book Accessibility, a FREE Demonstration on Alternative Access to Books** – Offered by the Easter Seals Assistive Technology Resource Center, this free demo for people who need alternative access to books will give an overview of various book libraries and devices on the market today for listening, reading and obtaining books in an accessible format. Popular and specialized sources such as your public

library, Bookshare, NLS, Google and Amazon Books, will be discussed. Devices that are commonly used for playing accessible books will be shown. This demo will be held from 11am-12pm at the Easter Seals Technology Center, 89 South Street, Boston (one block from MBTA South Station). RSVP required: call 617-226-2634 or email <artc@eastersealsma.org>.

**May 4&5 6th Annual Focus on Autism Spectrum Disorders Conference in Cambridge** – Held by Lesley University's Graduate Autism Intervention Program, this conference is designed for both parents, as well as providers, of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), and has the following schedule of events:

May 4, 7pm-9:30pm (\$25 registration fee): **Author Reading & Signing** – A wine and cheese reception as local author, Susan Senator, reads from her latest novel, *Dirt: A Story of Gardening, Mothering and Other Messy Things*. Susan is the author of three books on autism.

May 4&5: Artism: Art & Autism – An art show featuring the art of people with autism, which will be jointly curated by Dr. Robert Shreefter of Lesley University's Creative Arts in Learning Program and Elizabeth Stringer Keefe, faculty in the Graduate School of Education Special Education Program. Art will be displayed during the month of April for Autism Awareness month and for sale during the conference events.

May 5, 8am-5pm (\$75 registration fee): **Autism & Assistive Technology** – A day of learning and discussion with Dr. Rosalind Picard, MIT Media Lab; Marie Duggan, Technology for Autism Now; Russell Ewell, Hope Technology School/Quicktalk; Dr. Brenda Matthis, Lesley University; Russell Ewell, CEO, Digital Scribbler (via Skype); and Jennifer Leighton, Communication and Technology Lab, Spaulding Rehabilitation.

All proceeds from registration fees and the sale of art work will go directly to support the Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) Autism Legal Support Center. These events will be held at Lesley University Graduate School of Education, University Hall, Amphitheatre, 1815 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, and pre-registration is required. Register through MAC at <[www.massadvocates.org/autism-center.php#Autismconference](http://www.massadvocates.org/autism-center.php#Autismconference)> or 617-357-8431. For more information, please email Elizabeth Stringer Keefe at <[estringe@lesley.edu](mailto:estringe@lesley.edu)>.

**May 17 Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) Monthly Meeting** – *Please note date change for the May meeting.* Meets in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room at 51 Inman Street, Cambridge from 5:30pm, with opportunity for public comment. Call 617-349-4692 (voice) or 617-492-0235 (TTY) or e-mail <[kthurman@cambridgema.gov](mailto:kthurman@cambridgema.gov)> for more information or to request accommodations.

**May 19 Wings for Autism: An Airport Rehearsal for Children with ASD** – Offered by the Charles River Autism Support Center, in partnership with MassPort, Logan Airport and TSA, Wings for Autism is an opportunity for families who have children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to practice a trip to the airport. Every member of the family is issued a boarding pass, after which they practice going through a fully staffed security checkpoint and then wait at the terminal before boarding their plane. The families can talk with flight attendants and pilots and provide their children with a real life, air-travel experience. The rehearsal will be held from 9am to 1pm in Terminal E of Logan Airport in Boston. Registration is required and may be done online at <[www.charlesrivercenter.org](http://www.charlesrivercenter.org)>. Contact Jennifer Robtoy, Director of Autism Support, for more information at 781-972-1058 or <[jrobtoy@charlesrivercenter.org](mailto:jrobtoy@charlesrivercenter.org)>.

**May 31 Bike Riding 101 for Parents** – Offered by the Asperger's Association of New England (AANE), this workshop will help parents learn why bike riding is a complex skill and how to break the process of learning how to ride a bike into manageable steps for their children with Asperger Syndrome and related disabilities. You will leave with a detailed plan for helping your children learn to enjoy bike riding.

Presented by Brenda Dater, MPH, MSW, Director of Child and Teen Services at AANE, this workshop will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. at the AANE office, 51 Water Street, Suite 206 in Watertown, with a registration fee of \$40 for AANE members and \$50 for non-members. For more information, including possible partial scholarships, or to register, call 617-393-3824, email <info@aane.org>, or see <www.aane.org/upcoming\_events>.

## Weekly & Recurring Events

### Ongoing

**Injured Worker Support Meetings** – Meetings are scheduled by appointment, often the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 5:15 - 6:45 pm, but other times can be arranged. Meetings/appointments usually take place at 650 Beacon Street, Kenmore Square, Boston, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room (close to the Kenmore Square MBTA station, a few doors to the right of Barnes & Noble). RSI Action volunteers answer questions and provide resources and support, including the opportunity to view their provider evaluation book, to people with RSIs (Repetitive Strain Injuries) or other workplace injuries. Discussion topics have included medical treatment, insurance/legal issues, and speech recognition software. For more information or to set up a meeting, call 617-247-6827, or go to <www.rsiaction.org>.

### Mondays

**NAMI Connection** – a support group for adults with mental illness sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, meets every Monday, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Somerville Recovery Learning Center, 153 South St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor in Somerville. The group is free and open to all who self-identify as having a mental illness, regardless of diagnosis. For more information, contact Janel Tan at 617-863-5388 or <tanj@vinfen.org>.

**NAMI Support Group for Caregivers** – Sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, this is a free support group for family members, friends and other caregivers of persons with mental illness that provides understanding, comfort, hope and help. This group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30pm at the Cambridge Hospital Learning Center A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 1493 Cambridge Street. For more information, see <www.namimass.org/programs>, e-mail <helpline@namimass.org>, or call Elizabeth at 781-646-0397.

### Tuesdays

**Boston Voice Users** – this group for people who use or are interested in using speech recognition or dictation software meets from approximately 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at MIT in Building 2, Rm.135. Members explore the developments, available tools and products, and best use of personal computer-based speech-recognition, and invite both commercial and noncommercial entities to present at meetings. To find out more about meetings and discussions go to <www.bostonvoiceusers.org>.

### Wednesdays

**Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA (AACT)** meets 1 – 3 p.m. at the State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, 2nd floor Conference Room #2 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Call 617-973-7507 voice or 617-973-7089 TTY or e-mail <aact@ctps.org> for more information or to request interpreters. Security measures require proper ID for access to meetings.

**Access to Art: Explorations** – Offered by the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston, this is an interactive, multidisciplinary evening workshop that meets at 6pm in the Huntington Avenue Entrance Lobby on the first Wednesday of the month for adults with disabilities, with a focus on cognitive disabilities and disabilities that may affect verbal communication. This program is always multi-sensory and does not require one to be verbal. This program was developed with the intention of having it be as inclusive as

possible, thus friends and family members are welcome and encouraged to come and take part. This program is led by a facilitator with experience in both art and theatre and one or more musicians. This program is NOT for groups, and advance notice is appreciated. For more information, see <[www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)> or contact Valarie Burrows at 617-369-3302 or Hannah Goodwin at 617-369-3189, or e-mail <[access@mfa.org](mailto:access@mfa.org)>.

**Amputee Support Group** – Offered by Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, all amputees, their family and friends are invited to socialize and discuss common areas of interest, including accessibility and resources, as well as to provide support and share coping strategies. Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from 1-2pm in Conference Room 8A on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of Spaulding Rehab Hospital, 125 Nashua Street in Boston (adjacent to the TD Bank Garden; near MBTA North Station). For more information, see <[www.spauldingrehab.org/events/supportgroupevents](http://www.spauldingrehab.org/events/supportgroupevents)> or contact Sally Johnson, LICSW at 617-573-2539 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), or by e-mail at <[sejohnson@partners.org](mailto:sejohnson@partners.org)>.

**Assistive Technology Resource Center (ARTC) Open House** – The ARTC, which helps people with disabilities in Eastern Massachusetts make informed decisions about assistive technology they can use to increase their independence at home, on the job or in school, holds an open house on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from 8:30am-4:30pm. These FREE monthly open houses provide an opportunity to see what kinds of assistive technology products are available, and to try them out. The ARTC is located at the Boston Easter Seals office, 89 South Street (one block from MBTA South Station). Visit <[www.eastersealsma.org](http://www.eastersealsma.org)>, call 617-226-2634, or email <[ATRC@eastersealsma.org](mailto:ATRC@eastersealsma.org)> for more information. *(Please note: there will NOT be an Open House during the month of May)*

**Central Square Resume Writing & Job Hunting, FREE Drop-in Assistance** – Free help for adults needing assistance with making resumes or job hunting, offered on a first come, first served basis. Offered every Wednesday from 1-3pm at the Central Square Branch of the Cambridge Public Library (45 Pearl Street), this opportunity for assistance is open to all. For more information, contact Maria Balestrieri at <[mbalestrieri@cambridgema.gov](mailto:mbalestrieri@cambridgema.gov)> or 617-349-4013.

**DBSA-Boston (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Boston) Support Group** meets every Wednesday evening, 7-9pm at McLean Hospital in Belmont (de Marneffe Building, 1st floor lobby). Includes a lecture on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Call 617-855-2795 or see <[www.dbsaboston.org](http://www.dbsaboston.org)> for more information.

**Feeling for Form Introductory Tour of MFA for blind & low vision visitors** – The Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston offers a series of introductory one-on-one guided tours to the Museum and its collections for blind and low vision individuals who want to build a deeper relationship with the Museum. Each monthly session focuses on a different collection and includes wayfinding and verbal description of spaces. These tours are given on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30 am and the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Individuals can attend one or more sessions, whichever interests them. Guided tours can also be scheduled at other times. Pre-registration is not required unless a visitor needs a sighted guide or other access accommodation. Contact Valarie Burrows at 617-369-3302 or <[vburrows@mfa.org](mailto:vburrows@mfa.org)> to register. Call 617-369-3189 or e-mail <[access@mfa.org](mailto:access@mfa.org)> or go to <[www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)> for more information. The MFA is located at 465 Huntington Avenue in Boston, and is accessible by the Green line “E” train to the “Museum of Fine Arts” stop, or the Orange line train to the “Ruggles” stop.

**Free introductory tour of MFA in sign language & with assistive listening devices** – A new monthly offering at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. These tours will be given at 6:30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. No pre-registration is required; meet at the Sharf Visitor Center in the MFA. For more information about accessible programs Valarie Burrows at 617-369-3302 voice, 617-267-9703 TTY or e-mail <[access@mfa.org](mailto:access@mfa.org)>.

**Open Support Group for Adults on the Autism Spectrum** – Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 pm at the offices of the Asperger’s Association of New England (AANE), 85 Main St., Suite 101,



Watertown, MA. Hosted by Jamie Freed; a \$5 donation is suggested. RSVP to 617-393-3824, x310 or <Jamie.Freed@aane.org>.

**Rainbow Support Group for Adults with Developmental Disabilities** – Funded by Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong and the Department of Developmental Services, and hosted by Cambridge Family & Children's Service (CFCS), this group provides an opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals with developmental challenges to find their voice, be heard and supported in a safe, friendly environment. Participants must be at least 22 years old. Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 4:30 to 6:00pm at CFCS, 60 Gore Street, Cambridge, which is accessible by taking the MBTA Green Line to the Lechmere station. For more information, contact Peter Montalto at <pmontalto@helpfamilies.org> or 617-876-4210, x158.

**Senior Support Group for Caregivers over 60** – meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Family Resource Center, 20 Gould Street in Reading. Share and learn with other seniors who have adult family members with developmental disabilities. For meeting times or more information, contact Judy SantaMaria at 781-942-4888, x4022 or <familysupport@theemarc.org>.

**Spaulding Stroke Support Group** – This community-based support group offered by Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital (SRH) provides socialization and education for stroke survivors and meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 3-4pm in Conference Room 8A on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of SRH, 125 Nashua Street in Boston (adjacent to the TD Bank Garden; near MBTA North Station). For more information, see <www.spauldingrehab.org/events/supportgroupevents> or contact Karen Halfon at 617-573-7143 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), or by e-mail at <khalfon@partners.org>.

### **Thursdays**

**Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) Monthly Meeting** – generally meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, at 51 Inman Street, 2nd floor Conference Room, 5:30 to 7 p.m. with opportunity for public comment. Call 617-349-4692 (voice), 617-492-0235 (TTY) or e-mail <kthurman@cambridgema.gov> for more information or to request accommodations. *Please note that the May, 2012 meeting will be held on the third Thursday (May 17).*

**DBSA-Boston (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Boston) Support Group** – meets at Mass. General Hospital every Thursday, 7 - 9 p.m. in the Schiff Conference Center Room, Suite 4A on the 4th floor in the Yawkey Building. Follow the signs. Meetings are free and open to public. For more information call 617-855-2795 or e-mail <mghgroup@dbsaboston.org>.

**Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Support Group** – Offered by Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital (SRH), this weekly support group, which meets every Thursday from 4-5pm, is for anyone affected by SCI, to help and inspire the newly injured through role models and peer mentors, and to support individuals and family members as they begin their post-injury journeys. This group is run by Dr. Chris Carter and is held in GBC Office at SRH on the 9th Floor at SRH (take elevator to 9th Floor, make a left off the elevator; second to last door on the right), 125 Nashua Street in Boston (adjacent to the TD Bank Garden; near MBTA North Station). For more information, see: <www.spauldingrehab.org/events/supportgroupevents> or 617-573-2081 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), or by e-mail at <sciboston@aol.com>.

### **Saturdays**

**Boston Acquired Brain Injury Support Group (BABIS)** – The mission of this free support group is to provide a positive forum for peer socialization, hope and education for people with acquired brain injury, their family and friends. This group is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, from 10am-12pm at Spaulding Rehab Hospital, conference rooms 8A & AB, 125 Nashua Street, Boston. No registration required, just show up! For more information, call Sally Johnson, LICSW at 617-573-2539 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), e-mail <babisgroup@hotmail.com>, or see <www.babis.info>.



**Sundays**

**Feeling for Form Introductory Tour of MFA for blind & low vision visitors** –These tours are given on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30 am. Pre-registration is not required for the Sunday tours unless a sighted guide or other access accommodation is needed. See Wednesday listing for details.

**Access Notice:** The City of Cambridge and Commission for Persons with Disabilities do not discriminate on the basis of disability. This **AccessLetter** newsletter is available in e-mail, large print and other alternative formats upon request. To add your name to our mailing list, to inquire about alternative formats, or for information about other auxiliary aids and services or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, contact CCPD.

**Cambridge City Council**

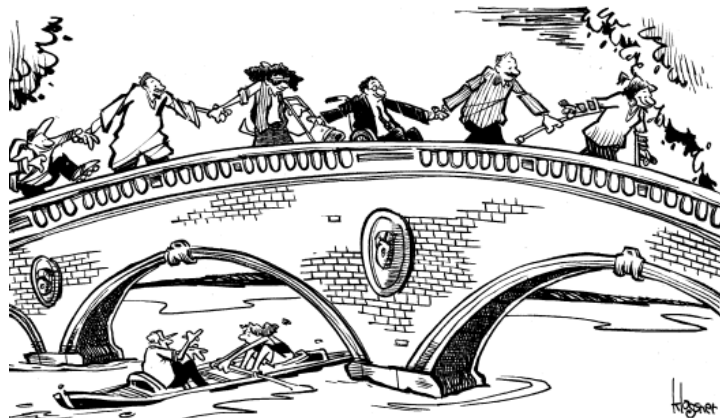
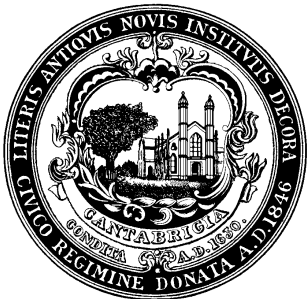
Henrietta Davis, *Mayor*  
E. Denise Simmons, *Vice Mayor*  
Leland Cheung  
Marjorie C. Decker  
Craig A. Kelley  
David P. Maher  
Kenneth E. Reeves  
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.  
Minka vanBeuzekom

**City Administration**

Robert W. Healy, *City Manager*  
Richard C. Rossi, *Deputy City Manager*  
Ellen Semonoff, *Assistant City Manager, Human Service Programs*

**Commission for Persons with Disabilities**

Michael Muehe, *Executive Director/ADA Coordinator*  
Kate Thurman, *Disability Project Coordinator*  
Joanna Berton Martinez, *Pro Bono Associate*  
Elizabeth Dean-Clover, *Chair*    Bet MacArthur  
JoAnn Haas, *Secretary*    Naomi Pinson  
Eileen Keegan Bongiorno    Gordon Slater, *Youth Ambassador*  
Miriam Cooper    Rachel Tanenhaus  
Sandy Durmaskin    Kathy Watkins  
Alissa Land    Dave Wood



**AccessLetter** is produced by the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities,  
part of the Department of Human Service Programs,

51 Inman Street, second floor, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139.

We welcome your articles, comments, criticisms, and suggestions. Write us!

**Read past issues on our website: [www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/disabilities.cfm](http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP2/disabilities.cfm)**

If you would rather receive your copy of **AccessLetter** electronically, please provide us with  
your name and e-mail address. To request that your name be removed from our mailing list,

contact us at 617-349-4692 Voice, 617-492-0235 TTY, 617-349-4766 Fax, or

<[kthurman@cambridgema.gov](mailto:kthurman@cambridgema.gov)>.

**Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities**

51 Inman Street, second floor

Cambridge, MA 02139